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Teaching (method)

Other people's schools

Branding R: Dad's army 6/25
 James P: Head of the village 2/24
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 No English 5/17
 Totten E: Blue coat Prep school 8/25
 Country school 16/25
 Yardley A: Open plan 11/7
 Hagedorn J: Open school 11/6
 Yardley A: Practice problems 5/24

	colour	b/w
Spring	Flight	Flight
Summer	Exotic landscape	The jungle
Autumn	At home	Looking at houses
Winter	At what time of day do you?	Talkabout: Time of day

Talking about

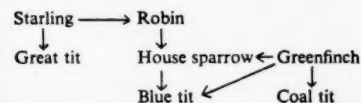
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 Voices from afar 4/4
 Why read? 2/4

	colour	large picture	b/w	colour	inset picture	b/w
January	Dick Whittington	London scenes		Wild flowers: 1, Spring		Look and say
February	Snow scene	In the snow ...		Sports: 1, Football		Football's the game
March	The mad march hare	Strange creatures		Sports: 2, Motor racing		Brrm!
April	Frogs and tadpoles	Frogs and tadpoles		Shopping: 1, The greengrocer		Money for shopping
May	Off to the moon!	Off to the moon!		Shopping: 2, The fishmongers		Money for shopping
June	The sun	Without the sun		Wild flowers: 2, Summer		Symmetry
July	Punch & Judy	Mr Punch		Shopping: 3, The flower shop		Who will buy?
August	The Quangle Wangle's hat	Poem		Shopping: 4, The hardware shop		Shopping
September	Hansel & Gretel	Prints		Wild flowers: 3, Autumn		Berries
October	Music making	Musical instruments		Balance		Balance
November	Fireworks	Firework shapes		Wild flowers: 4, Winter		Evergreen
December	The circus	Which would you like to be?		Sounds: 1, a e i o u		a e i o u

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Pecking order. By carefully observing the bird table over a period of some days, it will be seen that birds will often fight each other at meal times, and a good question children can be asked is as to who wins the battles at the bird table? Definite patterns will soon emerge. Starlings can usually frighten off most other species, and greenfinches can be spiteful indeed in forcing other species away (they even attack their own species) whilst blue-tits are easily seen off by great tits. And the occasional coal-tit seems to be the shyest of all, and certainly the bird which is attacked most fiercely by other birds (but note how it is much quicker than other birds and successfully gets away with its food each time in spite of being harassed by other members of the tit family).

And so a different kind of chart can be drawn up:



Lastly, a Personality guide can be made. With regular observation, children will soon get to know very many of the visitors to the bird table by some physical or behavioural trait. Here one can make notes of individual birds such as the sparrow which has lost most of its tail feathers (probably a 'close shave' with a cat), or the blackbird which has streaks of white in its plumage (partly an albino), or some blue-tit which has lost a leg or a foot (which seems to be more frequently seen in this species than any others). Make a note of the shyness of the dunno which creeps on the ground picking up food which has dropped from the table, and a quiet robin which will flee from a crowded bird table, or the very

aggressive great-tit which tries to get rid of other birds and eat at the same time.

Such bird projects conducted in school will not only provide a source of information, but they will also encourage the children to take a

great interest in birds in general (and the ability to distinguish one species from another), and will influence them to encourage their families at home to help the birds by feeding them during the winter.



Photo: Robert A Smith

All birds need to be fed regularly in wintertime